

REGULAR MEETING of the Burrillville Charter Review Commission held Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers, Town Building, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, RI.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Schutt, Dennis Anderson, Kelly C. Hunt, James Alix, Donison Allen, David Houle, Arthur R. Hurley, James A. Langlois and Elizabeth Lees

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

1. MOTION to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2015 meeting and dispense with the reading of said minutes.

Motion by Arthur R. Hurley.

Correction of a scrivener's error on item #6 was made.

VOTED to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2015 meeting and dispense with the reading of said minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Unfinished business:

CR15-06 Consider and act on submissions to date, as follows:

VOTED to open #7, CRC: §7.03, Duties – Town Solicitor (role of town solicitor as counsel for school department). Motion by Donison Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Pallotta, Superintendent of Schools, commented on the school committee's requirements for legal counsel and recommended that the charter not be amended. The matter was discussed and will be considered further at a future meeting. There were no votes taken.

VOTED to open #8, CRC: §§8.12 & 8.13, Department of Finance – Purchasing Agent (authority of municipal purchasing agent in school department purchasing). Motion by Dennis Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

The matter will be considered at the November 18, 2015.

#9 CRC: Art. IX, Personnel Board

Correspondence from the Town Clerk addressing questions posed at a prior meeting were received. The matter was scheduled for further discussion at the January 20, 2016 meeting.

VOTED to open #10, CRC: §10.05, Budget Board (limitations of changes to school department budget by line item). Motion by Kelly C. Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Frank Pallotta, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the budget process. The matter was concluded without action.

4. New Business:

VOTED to open CR15-14, Preliminary review of sections 11 through 19 by Commission. Motion by Dennis Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

Art XI. School Committee

Sections 11.10 (c) and 11.10 (f) were reviewed.

- Section 11.10 (c) reads, in part: “The School Committee, after consultation with the Town Council, shall establish wages, salaries and benefit programs for all school employees which are consistent with wage and salary and benefit programs currently in effect or proposed for a similarly-rated classification in the classified employment of the Town of Burrillville.”**

- Section 11.10(f) reads, in part: “The Department of Finance shall assume all the purchasing functions of the School Committee, in accordance with the requisitions of the School Committee, and shall purchase and distribute such supplies and materials as are used by both the public schools and their administrative departments, provided the costs thereof are charged to the respective departments.”**

These sections will be scheduled for further discussion with the administration at a future meeting.

Art XII. Department of Planning and Development

The membership of the Planning Board was discussed. The laws establishing Planning Board membership requirements will be provided to the Commission for discussion at a future meeting.

Art XIII. Department of Building Inspection

There was no discussion or vote on the article.

Art XIV. Department of Public Works

There was discussion of the tree warden. No votes were taken.

Art XV. Department of Public Safety

There was discussion of the Director of Emergency Management, the Director of Public Safety. No votes were taken.

Art XVI. Department of Parks and Recreation

There was no discussion or vote on the article.

Art XVII. Succession in Government

A technical correction to Sec. 17.07 was noted. No votes were taken.

Art XVIII. Other Offices and Commissions

Sections 18.03, Sealer of Weights & Measures and 18.05, Department of Public Welfare, were discussed. It was suggested that these sections might be defunct and removal might be recommended. Research will be conducted and these sections reviewed at a future meeting.

There was discussion of Section 18.06(a) which reads: “The Sewer Commission will comply with any position classification plan and pay plan adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Charter.” The Commission may schedule further discussion of this matter at a future meeting.

There was discussion of whether the charter should spell out the method of appointing the Redevelopment Agency and Sewer Commission members. Laws establishing each to be provided at a future meeting. Additional discussion will be scheduled.

Art XIX. General Provisions

There was discussion of Section 19.07 which reads, in part: “Subject to the limitations contained in section 3.10 and section 5.04, the Town Council shall have the power and duty to fix the compensation of all elected or appointed officials and employees of the Town, except personnel of the School Department.” There was discussion of the relationship to other provisions regarding compensation. The matter will be considered at a future meeting.

5. Communications:

VOTED to open CR15-15, communication related to submission #6, B: §3.14 (renumbered #6, C: §3.14) from Margaret L. Dudley. Motion by Donison Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTED to receive and file the correspondence from Margaret L. Dudley regarding her submission being as a citizen rather than a board member. Motion by James Alix. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTED to receive and file the correspondence from Dr. Frank Pallotta, Superintendent of Schools, acknowledging item #6, C: §3.14 and the School Department's intention to respond in due time. Motion by James Alix. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: This item tentatively rescheduled for December 16, 2015. Ms. Dudley will be notified of the change and thanked for her communication.

VOTED to receive and file CR15-16, copies of correspondence regarding Department Head submissions to the 2015 Charter Review Commission. Motion by Arthur R. Hurley. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTED to receive and file listing of agenda items to date. Motion by

Arthur R. Hurley. The motion passed unanimously.

6. General Discussion of the Project: There was no further discussion.

7. Items for future agenda

MOTION to put on the docket discussion of whether or not fire language should be included in a charter review capacity. Motion by Arthur R. Hurley.

The matter was discussed.

VOTED to move the question. Motion by James Alix. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote on the main motion, that is: “to put on the docket discussion of whether or not fire language should be included in a Charter review capacity” failed unanimously.

8. VOTED to adjourn at 8:38 pm. Motion by Arthur R. Hurley. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was recorded.

Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk